

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A computer program, stored in a tangible storage medium, for managing quality of service, the program representing middleware and comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

configure an application programming interface as a data model describing quality-of-service contracts and quality-of-service adaptation paths as specified by quality-of-service aware mobile multimedia applications using said application programming interface, in order to manage quality-of-service and mobility-aware for managing network connections with other applications, a quality-of-service adaptation path defining an adaptation policy identifying quality-of-service specifications and allows quality-of-service changes, and

wherein said middleware is adapted to negotiate with communication peers to generate adaptation paths by having a specific adaptation path proposed by an initiator of communication peers being validated by each of other communication peers in accordance with a corresponding adaptation policy, and having each of said other communication peers respond with a counter offer that is limited to a definition of a subset of the specific adaptation path proposed by said initiator, to measure the actual quality-of-service, and to solve any quality-of-service problem by deciding which of the possible adaptations to perform, and

wherein the adaptation paths are modeled as hierarchical finite state machines, each hierarchical finite state machine comprising:

a finite state machine associated with a User Context, a finite state machine associated with an Application Context nested in said finite state machine associated with said User

Context and a finite state machine associated with a Session Context nested in said finite state machine associated with said Application Context,

wherein said User Context, said Application Context and said Session Context each identify an arrangement of quality-of-service specifications enforceable through a set of streams belonging to a given user, application and session, respectively.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The computer program according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein the hierarchical finite state machines comprise controllable states in the context of streams at the lowermost level.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The computer program according to claim [[25]] 24, wherein quality-of-service synchronization is provided so as to ensure that some user's given constraints on quality-of-service are globally enforced throughout a given set of streams by applying a defined set of quality-of-service constraints to each stream of a set of streams.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 24, wherein the specification of the quality-of-service contracts comprises hysteresis parameters for the transition between quality-of-service states time synchronization is provided for a multiplicity of related streams by a definition of time-synchronization constraints for related streams having the same destination.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 24,

wherein the specification of the quality-of-service contracts comprises utility parameters defining user's perceived utility factors associated with the respective quality-of-service contract.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 24, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to provide an application handler unit to offer said application programming interface for providing quality-of-service aware mobile multimedia applications with the possibility of managing network connections with other applications.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 31, wherein the application handler unit registers requests for notification events from applications and generates such events whenever the corresponding triggering conditions occur.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 31, wherein the application handler unit operates on the basis of a data model comprising streams, quality-of-service context, quality-of-service associations and adaptation paths modeled as hierarchical finite state machines.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 33, wherein the application handler unit creates for each unidirectional stream an instance of a chain controller for handling data plane and quality-of-service control plane related issues.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 34, wherein the chain controller compares the quality-of-service requirements of a user with actual values of monitored parameters and configures a chain of multimedia components accordingly.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 35, wherein the chain controller creates and manages a transport service interface socket, whereby said multimedia components directly exchange data through said transport service interface socket.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 34, wherein the chain controller monitors and controls the local resources required to process the given stream by using resource managers.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 34, further comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to configure a quality-of-service broker for managing overall local resources by managing the whole set of streams via the chain controllers.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 38, wherein the quality-of-service broker manages system-wide resources via resource controllers.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 38,

wherein the quality-of-service broker controls end-to-end quality-of-service negotiation by using a session manager.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 38, wherein the quality-of-service broker includes further functionality for downloading plug-ins corresponding to a given version of a data model which can not be handled by the application handler unit.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 41, wherein the quality-of-service broker and the plug-ins are forming a quality-of-service broker cluster.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 34, wherein the application handler unit and the various instances of the chain controller are forming an application handler cluster.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 42, wherein the application handler cluster and the quality-of-service broker cluster are included in one open distributed processing capsule.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 42, wherein the application handler cluster and the quality-of-service broker cluster are included in separate open distributed processing capsules.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The computer program according to claim 45,

wherein the application handler cluster being included in one open distributed processing capsule is installed on a given local node and the quality-of-service broker cluster being included in separate open distributed processing capsule is installed on a separate open distributed processing node, whereby a proxy quality-of-service broker is installed on the given local node.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): A computer program, stored in a tangible storage medium, for managing quality of service, the program representing middleware and comprising executable instructions that cause a computer to:

configure an application programming interface as a data model describing quality-of-service contracts and quality-of-service adaptation paths as specified by quality-of-service aware mobile multimedia applications using said application programming interface,

wherein a quality-of-service adaptation path defines an adaptation policy identifying quality-of-service specifications and allows quality-of-service changes, ~~and~~

wherein said middleware is adapted to negotiate with communication peers to generate adaptation paths by having a specific adaptation path proposed by an initiator of the communication peers being validated by each of other communication peers in accordance with a corresponding adaptation policy, and having each of said other communication peers respond with a counter offer that is limited to a definition of a subset of the specific adaptation path proposed by said initiator, to measure the actual quality-of-service, and to solve any quality-of-service problem by deciding which of the possible adaptations to perform in order to manage quality-of service and mobility-aware for managing network connections with other applications, and

wherein the adaptation paths are modeled as hierarchical finite state machines, each hierarchical finite state machine comprising:

a finite state machine associated with a User Context, a finite state machine associated with an Application Context nested in said finite state machine associated with said User Context and a finite state machine associated with a Session Context nested in said finite state machine associated with said Application Context,

wherein said User Context, said Application Context and said Session Context each identify an arrangement of quality-of-service specifications enforceable through a set of streams belonging to a given user, application and session, respectively.